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Herbert has introduced two songs in the antique measures. The first is an Alcaic ode, as constructed by Horace. It is sung in a blacksmith's stithy, by the sturdy workmen, as they ply their sledges. So far as the thing can be done in the English language, Mr. Herbert has represented the *quantitative* rhythm of the Latin, and produced a singularly fine specimen of the modern antique. The same general remark may be applied to the Sapphic and Adonian stanzas, sung by Ægle at the house of Fulvia. We should be glad to quote them both, if we had room.

2. — *A Discourse on the Life and Character of the late John A. G. Davis, Professor of Law in the University of Virginia*; delivered before the Society of Alumni, June 29th, 1847. By LUCIAN MINOR, ESQ. Richmond. 1847. 8vo. pp. 32.

OUR readers will remember the thrill of horror which went through the country in 1840, when the news circulated that a valuable and distinguished citizen had fallen a victim to the unbridled passions of a profligate young man; that the life of Mr. Davis, the able Professor of Law in the University of Virginia, had been taken by a student whose turbulence he was endeavouring in the course of his official duty to repress. The murderer fled; but the active efforts of the community were speedily successful in accomplishing his arrest, and justice seemed in a fair way of receiving its due. Unhappily, the ignorance, weakness, or corruption of a magistrate set the blood-stained culprit at large on bail. The sum, to be sure, was a heavy one, but the great wealth of the family enabled them readily to meet the penalty; and the ancient and proud Commonwealth of Virginia stood in the unenviable attitude of the barbarian who takes in atonement for the blood of a kinsman a compensation in money. But though the laws of man were thus evaded by "wealth which is stained by filth of hands," the judgment of God followed the murderer over the face of the earth. The terrors of a guilty conscience, personified by the ancient poets as the avenging Erinnys, hunted the wretched victim of profligacy and crime, until he was driven to complete by suicide the tragedy which he had commenced with murder. What guilt, and what retribution, transcending all human punishment!

The Discourse, whose title is placed at the head of this notice, was delivered before the Society of the Alumni of the University.

Mr. Minor, its author, is a well-known lawyer and philanthropist of Virginia, distinguished not only in his profession, but as an eloquent and efficient advocate of the Temperance reform in that State. Some of our readers may remember a series of letters written by him ten or twelve years ago, during a tour he was making through the New England States. They were published at first in a newspaper, and afterwards, we believe, collected into a pamphlet. Nothing better has been written on the New England life, manners, and character; the letters were highly entertaining, as well as intelligent, candid, and just; and they exhibited no ordinary powers of English style.

We recognize the same qualities in this Discourse. Mr. Minor has drawn in vivid colors the character of his lamented friend and associate. He describes his early adherence to high and honorable principle; his successes achieved by noble means; the growing confidence which the country felt in his character and ability; and the result of that confidence in the appointment of Mr. Davis to the arduous and distinguished position of Professor of Law in the University of Virginia. In connection with this branch of his subject, Mr. Minor makes some remarks, worthy of all consideration by the appointing bodies in our universities, on the importance of taking young men for professors, instead of choosing those whose "previous reputation may attract students by its blaze"; a rule which he pronounces "one of the most fallacious and mischievous that can sway the governors of a college."

The services of Mr. Davis, his arduous and indefatigable labors in his professorship, are next very ably set forth. The picture of what he accomplished in his brief career makes us feel deeply how great was the loss the country suffered from the hand of the assassin. The Discourse closes with a delineation of "a model lawyer," founded on or suggested by the character of Professor Davis. This is very happily done, and deserves the careful attention of every young man who is deciding upon the choice of that profession.